

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, and 31 have been previously canceled, without prejudice. Applicants have reserved the right to file a divisional application to these Claims.

Claims 22, 24, 27, and 29 have been previously allowed. However, the Examiner has withdrawn the allowance of same in the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, and these claims now stand rejected as follows.

Claims 22 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,514,122). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention teaches an aqueous adhesive composition and an article comprising same in face stock material, both having an aqueous suspension of solid polymeric acrylic microspheres produced by a process using a non-free radically polymerizable acid.

Morris teaches a disposable absorbent article having hollow polymeric microspheres, where the microspheres are produced using free radically polymerizable monomers of acrylate, methacrylate, or vinyl ester. Morris does not teach or suggest an adhesive composition having solid microspheres produced using a non-free radically polymerizable acid. Morris does not teach or suggest the adhesive composition and article of Applicants' invention. All elements of Applicants invention are not provided by Morris. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is not supported. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 24 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morris *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention teaches an adhesive composition and article as described above. Claims 24 and 29 are dependent claims teaching a dry film peel value range for the composition and article, respectively.

Morris teaches a disposable absorbent article having hollow polymeric microspheres, where the microspheres are produced using free radically polymerizable monomers of acrylate, methacrylate, or vinyl ester. Morris does not teach or suggest any dry film peel value. Applicants maintain the Examiner is incorrect in asserting that the similarity in compositions of Applicants' invention and those provided in Morris would lead one to believe that the adhesive compositions of Morris must inherently have a peel force within the claimed range. Applicants assert that the adhesive compositions are produced by different processes as discussed above, and are different compositions. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morris *et al.* are not supported. Applicants request withdrawal of same.

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.



Janelle D. Strode, Reg. No. 34,378

2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 2400

Kansas City, MO 64108-2612

Tel: (816) 460-5859

Fax: (816) 292-2001

Attorney for Applicants